Cultural Resources Assessment in Support of the Minneola Road Solar Project, Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County, California.

Prepared for

Elevated Entitlements
4493 Rayburn St,
Westlake Village, CA 91362
Attn: Ramiro Gomez

June 2023

Report Completed: June 26, 2023 **Fieldwork Performed:** May 22, 2023

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Project Site Location: 7.5-Minute USGS topographic quadrangle, Yermo, California.

Township 9 North, Range 2 East; Section 28.

Assessor's Parcel Number: 052-105-108.

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Keywords: Project Area, APN 052-105-108; Cultural Resources Assessment; Positive Results; P-36-026512; CA-SBR-16781H; P-36-010627; CA-SBR-10627H; CEQA; AB52; Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County; Township 9 North, Range 2 East; Section 28; 7.5-Minute USGS topographic quadrangle, Yermo, California

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Purpose of Investigation: Elevated Entitlements retained BioCultural LLC to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment for the proposed solar project located on one parcel with Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of 052-105-108 and defined as 77.46-acre Project Area in the unincorporated community of Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County, California. BioCultural LLC understands the County of San Bernardino will function as the lead agency and review this report.

Summary Project Description: The project proposes a development of a commercial solar facility project with approximately 15,000 solar panels with a 3.0 megawatt (MW) capacity on a 77.46-acre Project Area. The project site is located in rural living zone along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road Tracks and Larch Street to the south, Barstow-Daggett airport and Chloride Road to the north, Minneola Road to the east and no physical marker to the west, the site is vacant and undeveloped with open direct access from Minneola Road. The County of San Bernardino required a Cultural Resources Assessment Study for purposes of project compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and specifically Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). The following report includes the methods and results of an intensive pedestrian survey, Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), a records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), background research to identify the presence or absence of cultural resources within the project area, and an evaluation of those resources, as warranted.

The study was conducted in compliance with CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, Section 15064.5 of the Guidelines, and Sections 21083.2 and 21084.1 of the Statutes of CEQA (Governor's Office of Planning and Research 1998). PRC Section 5024.1 requires the identification and evaluation of historical resources to determine their eligibility for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The CRHR is a listing of the state's historical resources, and indicates which properties are to be protected from substantial adverse change, as defined in CEQA, to the extent that is prudent and feasible.

Major Findings: On May 4, 2023, BioCultural LLC conducted an in-person record search of the CHRIS records located at the South Central Costal Information Center (SCCIC). The search included any previously recorded cultural resources and investigations within the project area and surrounding 0.25-mile (0.402-km) area. The record search results collected were reviewed, as well as other property-specific historical and ethnographic context research, to identify information relevant to the project area before conducting an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area. All 77.46-acre of the rectangular shaped parcel was surveyed on May 22, 2023 using walking north to south transects of 15-meter intervals. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to request a review of their Sacred Land File (SLF). A response from the NAHC was received on June 5, 2023.

Five previously recorded archaeological sites were identified during the CHRIS records search. Two previously recorded within the Project Area and three within the 0.25-mile radius of the Project Area. The NAHC's SLF search did not identify any site specific information with respect to tribal lands or sites for the project area. The presence of deeply buried archaeological material below the disturbed sediments cannot be ruled out.

An intensive pedestrian survey was conducted on May 22, 2023, by BioCultural LLC archeologist Gregorio Pacheco, B.A. The survey was conducted using a15-meter-wide parallel transects. No vehicles were used other than on paved, dirt, or gravel roads. The intensive pedestrian survey resulted in the relocation of previously recorded archaeological sites P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) and P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H). Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was updated as the historical refuse deposit

site expanded and covered a larger portion of the southern boundary of the Project Area. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H), was as well updated as additional perimeter fencing materials were found on the southern boundary of the site. Both cultural resource sites were recorded and updated on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms. No artifacts were collected during the intensive pedestrian survey.

Recommendations: Positive results were concluded of the current cultural resources studies. The previously recorded archaeological sites P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) and P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) were recorded. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was relocated and found to expand and be larger than previously recorded. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) was recorded as two perimeter reinforced barbed wire with roll wire fencing concentrations (Concentration 1 and Concentration 2). Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria to determine whether or not they constitute historical resources under CEQA. The historical site was found not eligible for the CRHR under any criteria for listing on the CRHR. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) is already eligible under Status Code 3D - eligible for National Register as a contributor to a National Register eligible district through survey evaluation. Archaeological monitoring is recommended for both archaeological sites in the initial construction-related ground disturbances activities.

If human remains are discovered within the project area, the San Bernardino County Coroner must be notified immediately, pursuant to State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. This code section states that no further disturbance shall occur until the San Bernardino County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the human remains are determined to be Pre-Contact (prehistoric), the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 24 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

INTRODUCTION AND SETTING

Elevated Entitlements retained BioCultural LLC to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment in support of a proposed solar project located on one parcel and defined as a 77.46-acre Project Area (Project), in accordance with CEQA and the County of San Bernardino (**Figure 1**). BioCultural LLC understands the County of San Bernardino will function as the lead agency and review this report.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in the unincorporated community of Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County, California, as depicted on the 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle of Yermo, within Township 9 North, Range 2 East, and Section 28 (**Figure 2**). Specifically, the Project is located in rural living zone along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road Tracks and Larch Street to the south, Barstow-Daggett airport and Chloride Road to the north, Minneola Road to the east and no physical marker to the west, the site is vacant and undeveloped with open direct access from Minneola Road (**Figure 3**). The project measures a total of 77.46-acres (Project Area), with identified Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 052-105-108.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proponent proposes a development of a commercial solar facility project with approximately 15,000 solar panels with a 3.0 megawatt (MW) capacity. The project site is located in the unincorporated community of Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County, California and proposes to develop a footprint area of 3374157.6 square feet within one undeveloped and leveled semi-rectangular shaped parcel.

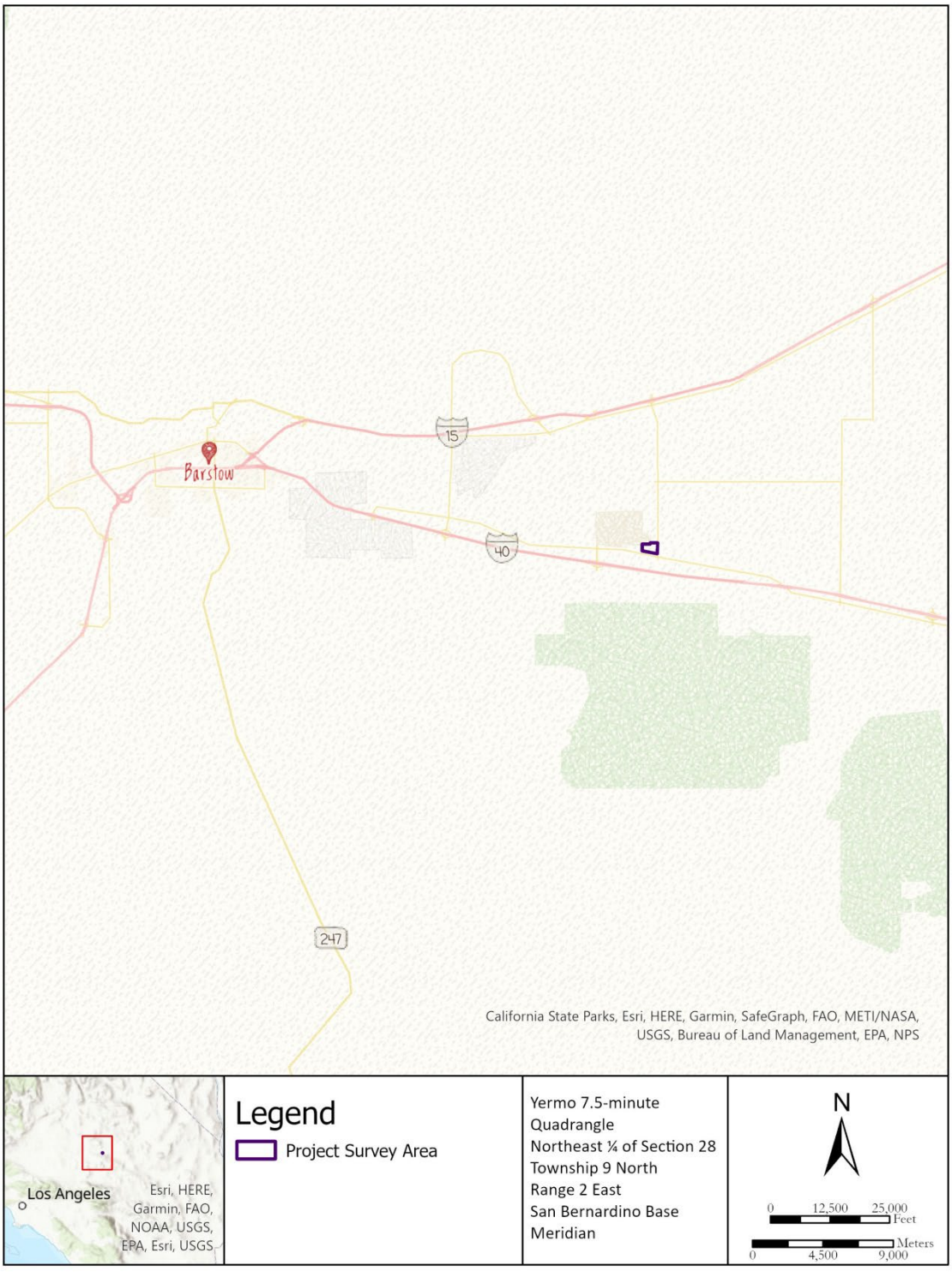

Figure 1. Project Overview Map.

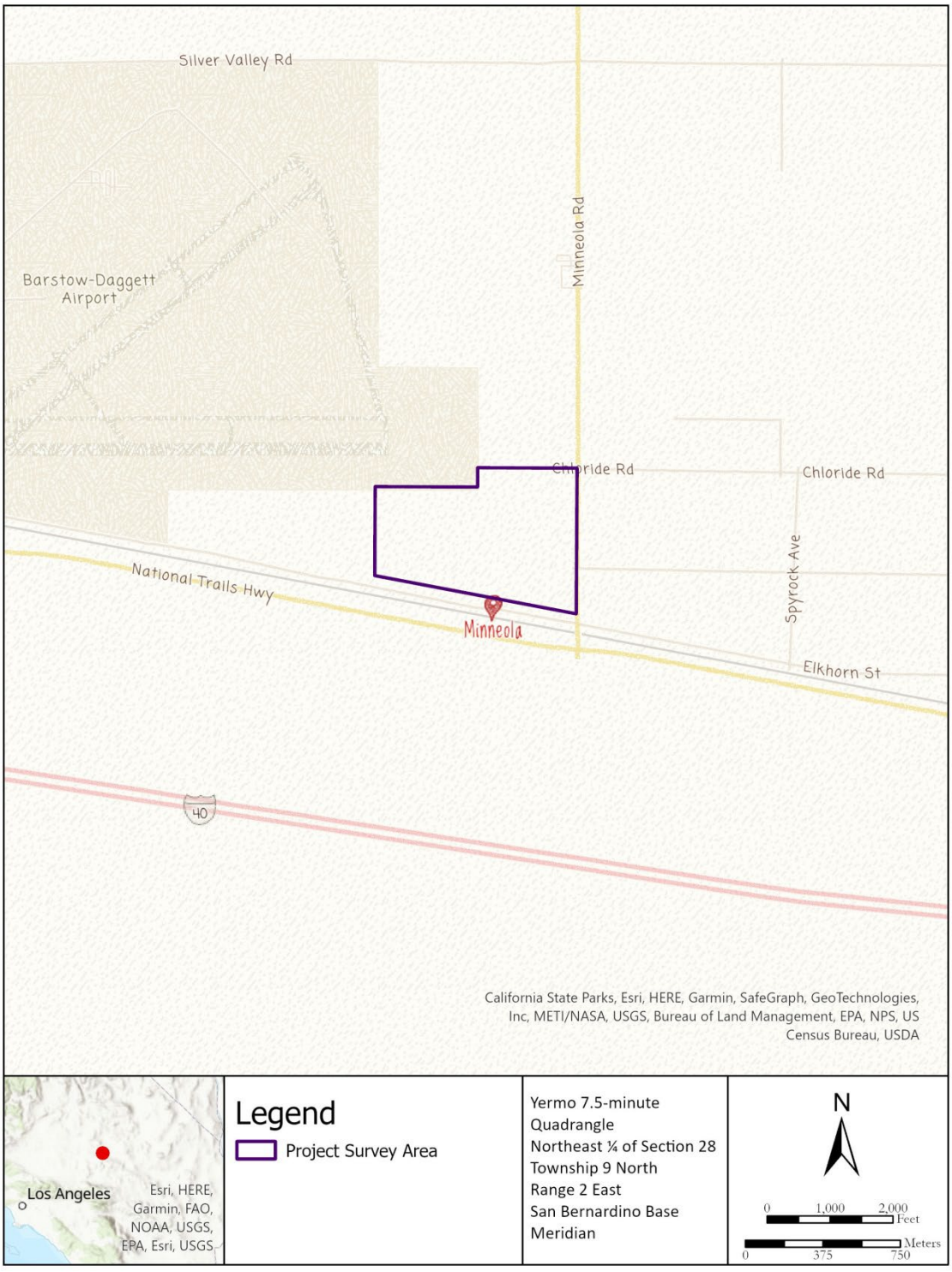

Figure 2. Project Vicinity Map.

Figure 3. Project Location Map.

LIST OF PERSONNEL AND RESPONSABILITIES

Cultural Resources Project Manager Gregorio Pacheco, B.A., managed the project, conducted the Record Search, the pedestrian field work, and co-authored the report. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist Ricardo Montijo prepared all figures. This report was reviewed for quality assurance/quality control by Cultural Resources Project Manager, David Sosa, M.A., RPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project area is composed of one (APN 052-105-108) vacant and undeveloped lot parcel located within the unincorporated community of Newberry Springs. The Project Area can be only accessed via Minneola Road, as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Yermo topographic quadrangle, Township 9 North, Range 2 East, and Section 28 within the San Bernardino Base Meridian.

The geology of the parcel consists of early Holocene and latest Pleistocene older young wash deposits characterized by small patches of weakly to moderately developed desert pavement with slightly dark varnish. The deposits are typically inset into intermediated deposits and incised by active channels. Surface has moderate to subdued bar-and-swale topography and shows an overall flattening, with desert pavement developing in swales (Phelps, Bedford, Lidke, Miller, and Schmidt 2012)..The surface geology observed consisted of large patches of moderately-to well-developed desert pavement overlying silty sand alluvium. Soil consists of alluvial clays, silts, and gravels. Numerous small to medium-sized cobbles and clasts of granite, quartz monzonite, chert, chalcedony, and rhyolite are found throughout the project area, and are found in greatest abundance in and near areas of desert pavement (Bowen 1954).
The vegetation community is predominantly creosote bush scrub, dominated by creosote (*Larrea tridentate*) and white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*). Other native plant species include salt bush (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra sp.*), yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), pencil cholla (*Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*), and native grasses. Non-native plants in the area include red brome (*Bromus madritensis*) and mustards (*Brassica sp.*). Wildlife in and near the project area includes ground squirrels (*Marmotini sp.),* kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys sp.*), jackrabbits (*Lepus sp.*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), various lizards, chuckwallas (*Sauromalus sp.),* red-tail hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), ravens (*Corvus corax*), sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), doves (*Columbidae sp*.), larks (*Alaudidae sp*.), rock wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*), and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*).

CULTURAL SETTING

The following section presents an overview of the Pre-Contact, ethnographic, and historic background of the region. Sections of a previously completed Cultural Resources Inventory Report have been extrapolated from ECORP Consulting (Chandler, Pappas and Manson 2010), SWCA Enviromental Consultants (Wesson, Millington and Kromarek 2019) and BCR Consulting LLC (Brunzell and Orozco 2021) to provide a basic understanding of the natural, cultural, ethnographic, and historic context of the proposed project area.

Pre-Contact Overview

Four cultural periods of Pre-Contact occupation of the region have been identified and refined: the Pleistocene Period (Pre-10,000 to 8,000 years BP), the Early Holocene Period (8,000 to 6,000 years BP), the Middle Holocene Period (6,000 to 2,000 years BP), and the Late Holocene Period (2,000 years BP to the time of Euro-American Contact (Sutton et al. 2007). Occupation of the Mojave Desert during the Pleistocene Period has only been confirmed for the Paleo- Indian or Clovis cultural complex (10,000 to 8,000 years BP) during the later portion of the Pleistocene Period. This cultural complex is characterized by large, fluted projectile points, which have been most commonly found near Pleistocene Lakes indicating a reliance on hunting large game in lacustrine environments (Sutton et al. 2007; Warren 1984). The relative paucity of assemblages dating to this time period leaves gaps in our understanding of the lifeways of these early occupants of the Mojave Desert. A greater number of sites with more diverse assemblages are observed in resources dating to the Early Holocene Period. An increased diversity of lithic tools is represented, indicating significant advancement in lithic technology and continued hunting and animal processing during this period. Tools include Lake Mojave and Silver Lake points, bifaces, and crescents. Milling-related artifacts also appear during this period, indicating greater use of vegetal foods. Trade is reflected by the presence of shell beads in some desert sites. Sites reflecting extensive residential occupation appear to have been occupied recurrently on a seasonal basis rather than as permanent settlements (Sutton et al. 2007; Warren 1984).

During the Middle Holocene Period, the Mojave Desert appears to have been occupied by multiple culturally and technologically distinct populations. Lithic technologies continued to develop during this period with a greater diversity of raw materials used and an increase in bifacial and unifacial tools, as well as milling implements. Pinto points are common. Use of bone artifacts appears to have increased during this period, and baked-earth steaming ovens first appear. Occupation of permanent or semi-permanent villages occurred in this period, and reoccupation of seasonal sites continued. *Olivella* shell beads reflect continued trade with coastal groups (Sutton et al. 2007; Warren 1984). The lack of sites dating to the last millennium of this period (i.e., 3,000 to 2,000 years BP) has been interpreted to indicate a hiatus of occupation of the Mojave Desert, possibly due to hot, dry conditions (Sutton et al. 2007).

The Late Holocene Period saw an increase in rainfall and lake levels, and a corresponding increase in the exploitation of the desert environment, particularly near pluvial lakes and streams. Sites are smaller but more numerous and spread over a larger area. Structures like wickiups and pit houses have been documented. Point types include Elko, Humboldt, Gypsum, Rose Spring, Eastgate, and Desert Side-Notched. Smaller dart and arrow points combined with faunal remains indicate a greater reliance on rabbits, rodents, and other small game. Evidence of ceremonial or ritual practices are represented by quartz crystals, paint, and rock art (Sutton et al. 2007; Warren 1984).

Ethnography

The project area is located in a once-remote area of the Mojave Desert, the pre-contact population of which is not as well-understood as are the populations that lived in and near the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountain ranges to the south and their passes to the coastal valleys. The northern reaches of the Mojave River, including the area now occupied by the community of Helendale, are within the traditional territory known to have been occupied by the Vanyume subgroup of the Serrano people. The area also is located within the range of seasonal trips made by the Kawaiisu, neighbors of the Vanyume to the northwest.

Serrano/Vanyume

The Serrano people once occupied the Mountain, North Desert, and East Desert Regions of San Bernardino County. The Serrano language is part of the Serran division of a branch of the Takic family of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic stock (Mithun 2004:539, 543). The two Serrano languages, Kitanemuk and Serrano, are closely related. Kitanemuk ethnographic lands were located to the northwest of the Serrano. The Kawaiisu and Chemehuevi, located north and east of the Serrano, respectively, spoke languages that belong to the Numic branch of the Uto-Aztecan family. A relatively small group located within the San Bernardino Mountains and the Sierra Madre originally spoke Serrano (Kroeber 1925:611). The Vanyume, who lived along the Mojave River and associated Mojave Desert areas and are also referred to as the Desert Serrano, spoke either a dialect of Serrano or a closely related language (Mithun 2004:543).

According to the records by Fr. Francisco Garcés, who was the first European to travel in this region in 1776, the name Vanyume is derived from the term for them (Beñeme) used by the Mojave (Coues 1900:Vol. 1:240). Very little is known of the Vanyume-speaking people because the Spanish missionaries greatly disrupted the group between the early 1820s and 1834. By the 1900s, the group was considered extinct (Kroeber 1925:614; Bean and Smith 1978:570). Kroeber (1925:614–615) does make distinction between the Serrano and Vanyume by reporting that the Vanyume were friendly with the Chemehuevi and Mohave to the east, whereas the Serrano maintained animosity with these groups. The area of combined Serrano/Vanyume occupation—the San Bernardino Mountains, the southwestern portions of the Mojave Desert, and the Mojave River area—has become known as the Serrano area.

Most Serrano lived in small villages located near water sources (Bean and Smith 1978:571). Kroeber (1925:617–618) considered the organization of Serrano lineage sets similar to that of political groups. He defined a lineage set as occupying one village, representing at least two moieties, and coordinating its hunting and gathering activities per the religious deliberations and scheduling determined by two leaders (one from each of the moieties), with one leader occupying the ceremonial house and the other possessing the ceremonial bundle. Often, a lineage set had the exclusive power to forge and maintain economic ties to other villages of neighboring Serrano, Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Gabrielino, and Cupeño. Desert Serrano villages are mentioned in the 1776 account of the Spanish Franciscan missionary Fr. Francisco Garcés and in the records dating to the early 1800s by Fr. Joaquín Nuez. Fr. Garcés mentions villages along the Mojave River near today's cities of Barstow and Daggett (Coues 1900:Vol. 1:241–248). Beattie (1955) suggests the average village population was 70, and that these settlements were generally spaced at 10-mile intervals along the river.

The fundamental economy of the Serrano was one of subsistence hunting and collecting plant goods, with occasional fishing (Bean and Smith 1978:571). Serrano territory was a trade nexus between inland tribes and coastal tribes, and trade and exchange was an important aspect of the Serrano economy. Those living in the lower-elevation desert floor villages traded foodstuffs with people living in the foothill villages who had access to a different variety of edible resources. In addition to intervillage trade, ritualized communal food procurement events, such as rabbit and deer hunts and piñon, acorn, and mesquite

nutgathering events, integrated the economy and helped distribute resources that were available in different ecozones.

A variety of materials were used for hunting, gathering, and processing food, many of which were also used for shelter, clothing, and ceremonial items. Shell, wood, bone, horn, stone, plant materials, animal skins, and feathers were used for making money, baskets, blankets, mats, nets, and bags. The Serrano made pottery and used it daily to carry and store water or foodstuffs; ceramics were also used as ceremonial objects. They also made awls, sinew-backed bows, arrows, arrow straighteners, throwing sticks (for hunting), traps, fire drills, stone pipes, musical instruments of various types (rattles, rasps, whistles, bull-roarers, and whistles), yucca fiber cordage for snares, nets and carrying bags, and clothing (Bean and Smith 1978:571; Bean and Vane 2002). A strong tradition of basket weaving incorporated the use of juncus sedge, deergrass, and yucca fiber.

Religious doctoring among the Serrano took place within the ceremonial center (Bean and Smith 1978:573). Their doctoring tradition was based on dreaming techniques aided by the hallucinogenic datura plant, sucking techniques applied by the doctor to the patient's body, and by the administration of pharmacopeia of traditional medicinal plants. Songs and rituals to the creator for the conversion of plants and animals into the foods, medicines, and utensil materials necessary for Serrano sustenance played an important role in any hunting, gathering, or healing endeavor (Bean and Vane 2002). Shamans also had significant roles in typical life rituals, including birth, puberty, marriage, and death. The administration of datura was particularly important in the boys' puberty ceremony since they were expected to have dreams that would determine the future mileposts of their lives.

Prior to Spanish occupation of their lands, the Serrano practiced cremation of the body and the deceased's possessions. The completion of the death cycle involved a week-long ceremony that involved ritualized gift giving, feasting; naming, public display of the lineage set ceremonial bundle, an eagle killing and dance ceremony, and a final burning of an effigy depicting the deceased.

Mainly due to the inland territory that the Serrano occupied beyond Cajon Pass, contact between Serrano and Europeans was relatively minimal prior to the early 1800s. As early as 1790, however, the Serrano began to be drawn into mission life (Bean and Vane 2002). More Serrano were relocated to Mission San Gabriel in 1811 after a failed indigenous attack on that mission. In the 1860s, a smallpox epidemic decimated many indigenous southern Californians, including the Serrano (Bean and Vane 2002). Oral history accounts of a massacre in the 1860s at Twentynine Palms may have been part of a larger American military campaign that lasted 32 days (Bean and Vane 2002:10).

Surviving Serrano sought shelter at Morongo with their Cahuilla neighbors; Morongo later became a reservation (Bean and Vane 2002). Other survivors followed the Serrano leader Santos Manuel down from the mountains and toward the valley floors, and eventually settled on what later became the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Reservation. This reservation was established in 1891 (San Manuel Band of Mission Indians 2008). Although ethnographers considered the Vanyume extinct (Kroeber 1925:614; Bean and Smith 1978:570), recent genealogical research combined with mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis indicates three lineages from the Fort Tejon area were originally from the village of Topipabit downstream from Victorville (California Energy Commission 2008:4.3–11). These lineages are currently part of the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, located in Newhall. This group, which includes Kitanemuk, Inland Chumash, Tataviam, and Vanyume, has applied for federal recognition.

Kawaiisu

The Kawaiisu were situated primarily around the mountainous ridge between the Mojave Desert and the San Joaquin Valley, which included portions of the Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada mountains. The

Kawaiisu language makes up the westernmost Numic branch of the Uto-Aztecan family; however, some linguists classify it as an entirely separate language. Kawaiisu territorial limits are difficult to establish since they had little concept of territory or boundary and only a general recognition of a home base. They are known to have moved about over large areas in search of seasonal food resources. Kawaiisu utilized over 110 different types of plant resources as food, including acorns, juniper, pinon, mariposa, rice grass, fiddleneck, wild celery, chia, mesquite, screwbean, box thorn, mustard, yucca, and Joshua tree. Game food also included a wide variety of species. Deer was the favorite protein, but was supplemented with antelope, mountain sheep, rodents, chuckwallas, birds, insects, and many other animal species (Zigmond 1986).

Structures included winter houses made of wood poles, willow, bark, and brush; open, flat-roofed shade houses for the summer; and earth-covered sweathouses. Bark and tule mats were used to fortify structures with extra protection from the rain and served as doors. Circular brush enclosures were created for encampments and ceremonies. Granaries about two feet tall were constructed to store acorns, nuts, and seeds. Kawaiisu technology included the bow and arrow with projectile points; bone and thorn awls; undecorated pottery (possibly obtained through trade); twined and coiled baskets; cordage for use in nets and mats and to tie and bind other materials; and stone bowls and pestles (Zigmond 1986).

The aboriginal population of the Kawaiisu is estimated at around 500 prior to contact with Europeans by 1769. After trappers and miners settled in the area in the 1800s, the population had dwindled to around 150. Like the Vanyume, all manifestations of tribal life has disappeared by the 1960s and very few descendants of the Kawaiisu culture are known today (Zigmond 1986).

HISTORY

Spanish Period. The first significant European settlement of California began during the Spanish Period (1769 to 1821) when 21 missions and four presidios were established between San Diego and Sonoma. Although located primarily along the coast, the missions dominated economic and political life over the majority of the California region during this period. The purpose of the missions was primarily Native American control, along with economic support to the presidios, forced assimilation of the Tribes to Hispanic society, and conversion of the native population to Spanish Catholicism (Castillo 1978; Cleland 1941). During this period, Father Francisco Garces became one of the first Europeans to travel through the western Mojave on his search for a route from Arizona to the missions in northern California. He passed near the future site of Barstow in 1776 (Mojave River Valley Museum 2006).

Mexican Period. The Mexican Period (1821 to 1848) began with the success of the Mexican Revolution in 1821, but changes to the mission system were slow to follow. When secularization of the missions occurred in the 1830s, the vast land holdings of the missions in California were divided into large land grants called ranchos. The Mexican government granted ranchos throughout California to Spanish and Hispanic soldiers and settlers (Castillo 1978); however, few of these ranchos were located in the desert regions of California. During this period, the Barstow area experienced little settlement, but became a regular transportation route as part of the "Old Spanish Trail," which passed just a few miles east of present-day Barstow (Mojave River Valley Museum 2006).

American Period. In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and marked the beginning of the American Period (1848 to present). The discovery of gold the same year initiated the 1849 California Gold Rush, bringing thousands of miners and settlers to California, most of who settled in the north. For those settlers who chose to come to southern California, much of their economic prosperity was fueled by cattle ranching rather than gold. This prosperity came to a halt in the 1860s as a result of severe floods and droughts, which put many ranchos into bankruptcy (Castillo 1978; Cleland 1941).

Local Sequence. Prior to the 20th century, greater Victor Valley's main industries included cattle ranching, and mining. In 1893, Ursula M. Poates named the community of Apple Valley in an effort to convince settlers that fruit could be grown in the desert. The charismatic Poates had resided in the Mojave most of her life, and attempted to substantiate the claim by planting three apple trees in her wind-blown, greasewood-covered yard (Bright 1998). By 1910, locals had followed suit and soon 17 apple orchards occupied 1,000 acres within the valley. The success of Apple Valley prompted Arthur E. Hull, founder of Beaumont, California, to invest in the agricultural potential of the area. Hull was instrumental in publicizing Victor Valley's development, and successfully lobbied for the construction of the first paved Cajon Pass road. He also procured water rights to accommodate the area's growing agricultural endeavors (O'Rourke 2004).

Contemporaneous with the agricultural boom, large federal grants were made available and the government encouraged homesteaders to occupy and improve thousands of additional acres. The homestead and agricultural era was locally short-lived, however, and as a result of the United States' 1917 entry into World War I, mining (specifically limestone) and cattle ranching became the region's driving economic force. During the decades after World War I, the few remaining apple orchards became increasingly unprofitable and died out due to fungus, bad weather, and stiff competition from fruit growers in Central California and the American Northwest. The limestone mining industry continued to grow, and was primarily concentrated in the Victorville-Oro Grand district (Wright et al. 1953). By the 1950s more than half the mineral production (by value) in San Bernardino County came from limestone operations, the bulk of which was used by Portland cement plants.

In spite of limited diversification of local industries during the early 20th century, improvements to local infrastructure allowed more varied economic growth. In 1926, U.S. Route 66 was constructed to connect the American Midwest with California. The route commenced in Chicago, winding south through the Midwest and Southwest, through the Mojave Desert and the Cajon Pass to the Los Angeles Basin, before terminating at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica. Within Victor Valley, the route promoted some economic growth as an artery used to transport limestone, which fed the growing demand for concrete throughout southern California's growing municipalities. It would also promote businesses along its corridor and eventually provide a commuter route for the burgeoning bedroom communities that sprang up across the Victor Valley during the latter half of the 20th century (O'Rourke 2004). By 1949, petroleum magnate Newton T. Bass saw potential for significant land speculation in the area based upon the discovery deep aquifers in Apple Valley. During the ensuing decades, Bass and his partner Bernard Westlund acquired approximately 25,000 acres of land in Apple Valley. Through a series of promotional campaigns, the partners proceeded transform the sparsely-populated strip of desert into the thriving residential and commercial community that continues to expand to this day (O'Rourke 2004:41-43).

Regulatory Setting
State

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires a lead agency to analyze whether historic and/or archaeological resources may be adversely impacted by a proposed project. Under CEQA, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.1). First, the determination must be made as to whether the proposed project involves cultural resources. Second, if cultural resources are present, the proposed project must be analyzed for a potential "substantial adverse change in the significance" of the resource.

Archeological Resources: In terms of archaeological resources, PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information;

- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type;

- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important Pre-Contact or historic event or person.

If it can be demonstrated that a proposed project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that they cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Sections 21083.2[a], [b], and [c]). CEQA notes that, if an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological resource nor a historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered to be a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(c)(4).

Human Remains: CEQA Guidelines also describe the procedures to be followed in the event of the unforeseen discovery of human remains. If human remains are discovered during the construction of the Proposed Project, no further disturbance to the site shall occur and the San Bernardino County Coroner must be notified (PRC Sections 15064.5 and 5097.98). If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the NAHC within 48 hours. The NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) of the deceased and the MLD may then make recommendations as to the disposition of the remains. Native American burials in California are also addressed in PRC Sections 5097.9 through 5097.991 and in Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.

California State Assembly Bill 52: Assembly Bill 52 of 2014 (AB 52) amended PRC Section 5097.94 and added PRC Sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 21084.3.

Consultation with Native Americans: AB 52 formalizes the lead agency – tribal consultation process, requiring the lead agency to initiate consultation with California Native American groups that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project location, including tribes that may not be federally recognized. Lead agencies are required to begin consultation prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report.

Tribal Cultural Resources: Section 4 of AB 52 adds Sections 21074 (a) and (b) to the PRC, which address tribal cultural resources and cultural landscapes. Section 21074 (a) defines tribal cultural resources as one of the following:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

    - Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources and included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

    - A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Section 1 (a)(9) of AB 52 establishes that "a substantial adverse change to a tribal cultural resource has a significant effect on the environment." Effects on tribal cultural resources should be considered under CEQA. Section 6 of AB 52 adds Section 21080.3.2 to the PRC, which states that parties may propose mitigation measures "capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource." Further, if a California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding project alternatives, mitigation measures, or significant effects to tribal cultural resources, the consultation shall include those topics (PRC Section 21080.3.2[a]). The environmental document and the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (where applicable) shall include any mitigation measures that are adopted (PRC Section 21082.3[a]).

RESEARCH METHODS

The following section presents an overview of the methodology used to identify the potential for cultural resources within the project area.

CHRIS Records Search Method

A California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) in-person records search was conducted on May 4, 2023. The search was conducted in order to identify previously conducted studies and recorded cultural resources within a 0.25-mile (0.40-km) radius of the project area. The South Central Coast Information Center (SCCIC) located at California State University Fullerton houses and maintains records of previously documented cultural resources (including those that meet the definition of a tribal cultural resource) and technical studies located within the Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation 1997), Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), and the Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File also were reviewed for historic properties within the project area.

Sacred Lands File Search Method

Additionally to conducting an in-person CHRIS records search, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the general vicinity of the project area was requested with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on May 4, 2023. The SLF search identifies and verifies if any known Tribal Cultural Resources, Native American gravesites and/or spiritual sites are present within the vicinity of the project area. The SLF also identifies and provides a list of Native American tribal groups and/or tribal individuals (listed by the NAHC) with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the project area.

Historical Map Review Method

A review of historical maps depicting features such as towns, roads, buildings, and creeks to provide additional information regarding the potential for the presence of historic-era cultural resources within the Project Area. The review was completed using Historical Aerials and topographic maps. The results can be viewed on the Results Section under Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

RESULTS

CHRIS Records Search

Previously Completed Cultural Studies and Recorded Cultural Resources

An in-person Cultural Resources Records Search was completed by Project Manager Gregorio Pacheco on May 4, 2023. The search results encountered three previously conducted cultural resource technical study reports within the 0.25-mile (0.40-km) buffer area and two previously conducted cultural resource technical study reports within the Project Area (**Table 1**). As well, the records search results revealed three previously recorded cultural resource sites within the 0.25-mile (1.60.40-km) radius of the Project Area and two previously recorded cultural resource sites to be found within the Project Area (**Table 2**).

Table 1: Previously Completed Cultural Resources Technical Studies.

Report #	Title	Date / Author(s)	Within Project Area
SB-00556	Archaeological - Historical Resources Assessment of the Barstow-Daggett Airport	San Bernardino County Museum Association / 1977	No
SB-04761	Final Reach 4A Addendum: Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Mojave River Pipeline Project, Phelan to Minneola, San Bernardino County, California.	Wesson, Alex, Steely, James, and Hunt, Kevin. / 2004	No
SB-05283	Draft, Reach 4B Addendum Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Mojave River Pipeline Project, San Bernardino County, California.	Wesson, Alex and Hunt, Kevin. / 2004	Yes
SB-06215	N/A	N/A	No
SB-08031	Cultural Resources Inventory of 5,300 Acres for the PG&E Pipelines 300A and 300B, San Bernardino and Kern Counties, California	Higgins, Courtney, Kellawan, Rebecca, G. Duke, Daron, and Lucas, Thomas / 2013	Yes

Table 2: Previously Recorded Cultural Resources.

Primary	Trinomial	Other ID	Type	Age	Date / Recorded by	Within Project Area
P-36-010627	CA-SBR-010627H	Barstow-Daggett Airport Flight Station; Barstow Daggett County Airport	Building, Site, Element of district	Historic	"2001 (Jeffrey R. Wedding, UNLV); 2004 (A. Wesson, SWCA); 2008 (Terri Jacquemain, CRM Tech); 2008 (Terri Jacquemain, CRM Tech); 2018 (M. Connelly, HDR)"	Yes
P-36-026455	N/A	COUR-31 H	Structure	Historic	2013 (C. Higgins and T. Lucas, Far Western)	No
P-36-026482	N/A	ERIC-17H; Minneola Road	Structure	Historic	"2013 (D. Martinez and D. Mike, Far Western); 2017 (M. Connelly, HDR); 2018 (None, Urbana Preservation & Planning); 2020 (None, Urbana)"	No
P-36-026511	N/A	GENE-20H	Site	Historic	2013 (C. Higgins et al., Far Western)	No
P-36-026512	N/A	GENE-21H	Site	Historic	2013 (C. Higgins et al., Far Western)	Yes

SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

The Sacred Lands File Search results conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission were received on June 5, 2023. The Sacred Lands File Search results included a list of Native American tribal groups or individuals listed and who may have knowledge of tribal resources and/or scared places within the project area and its surroundings. The search results did not identify any specific site information within the project boundary (Appendix C). The NAHC noted that the negative results may not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources in the area and the listed Native American individuals and tribal organizations that should be contacted. No further Native American coordination was completed as it is assumed CEQA AB 52 tribal consultation will be conducted (as needed) by the lead agency (the County of San Bernardino). The NAHC Native American contacts list is provided in Appendix D.

HISTORICAL MAP REVIEW RESULTS

The historical and recent aerials and topographic maps utilized for the review of this project were – 1957, 1968, 1970, 1983, 2005, 2014and 2020 to show any to provide additional information regarding the potential for the presence of historic-era cultural resources, changes and /or disturbances within the Project Area.

The aerial maps review did not show any significance information and can be summarized and viewed below as Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Figure 4. Project Location Topographic Map of 1957.

Figure 5. Project Location Topographic Map of 1968.

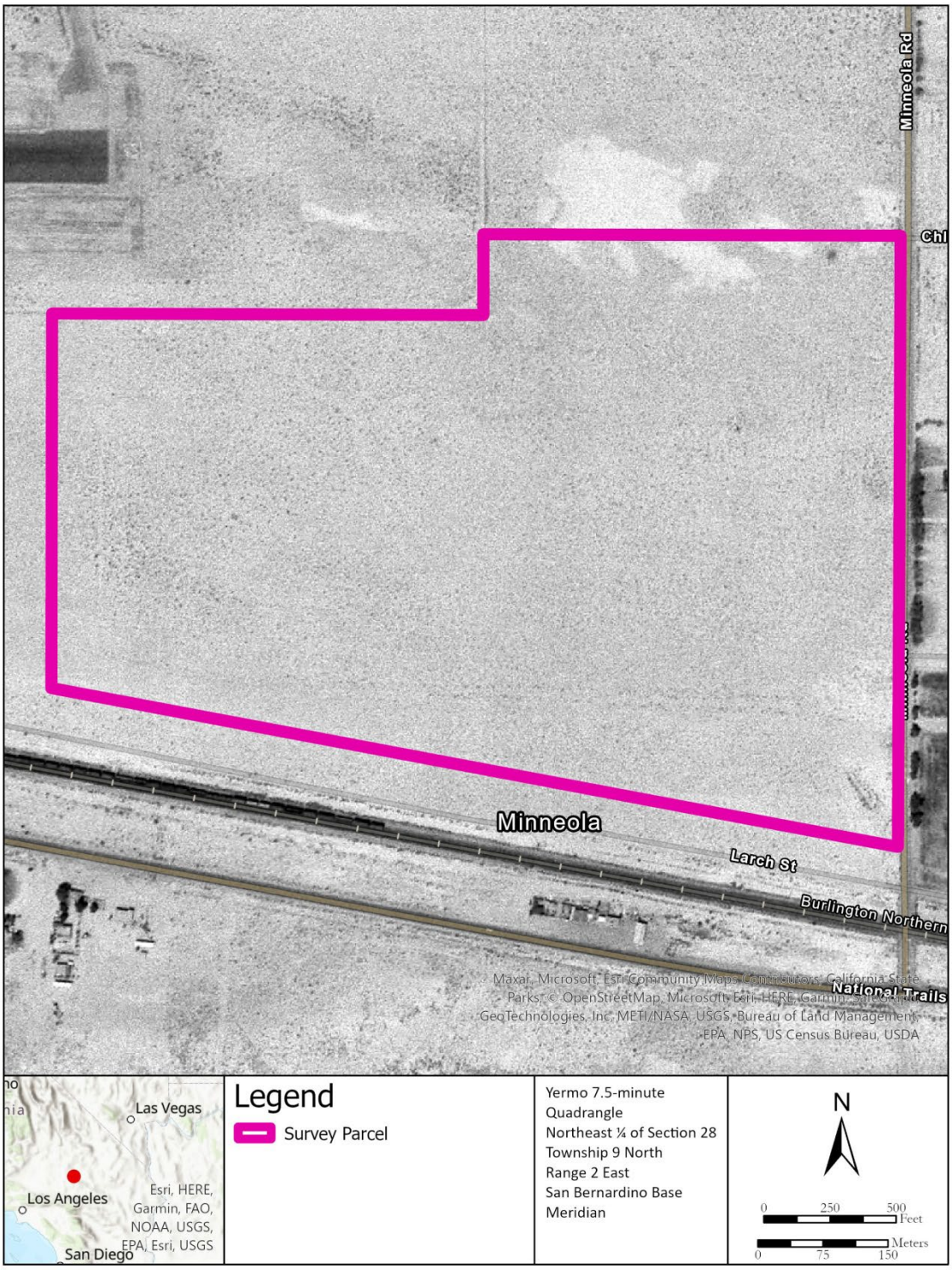

Figure 6. Project Location Aerial Map of 1970.

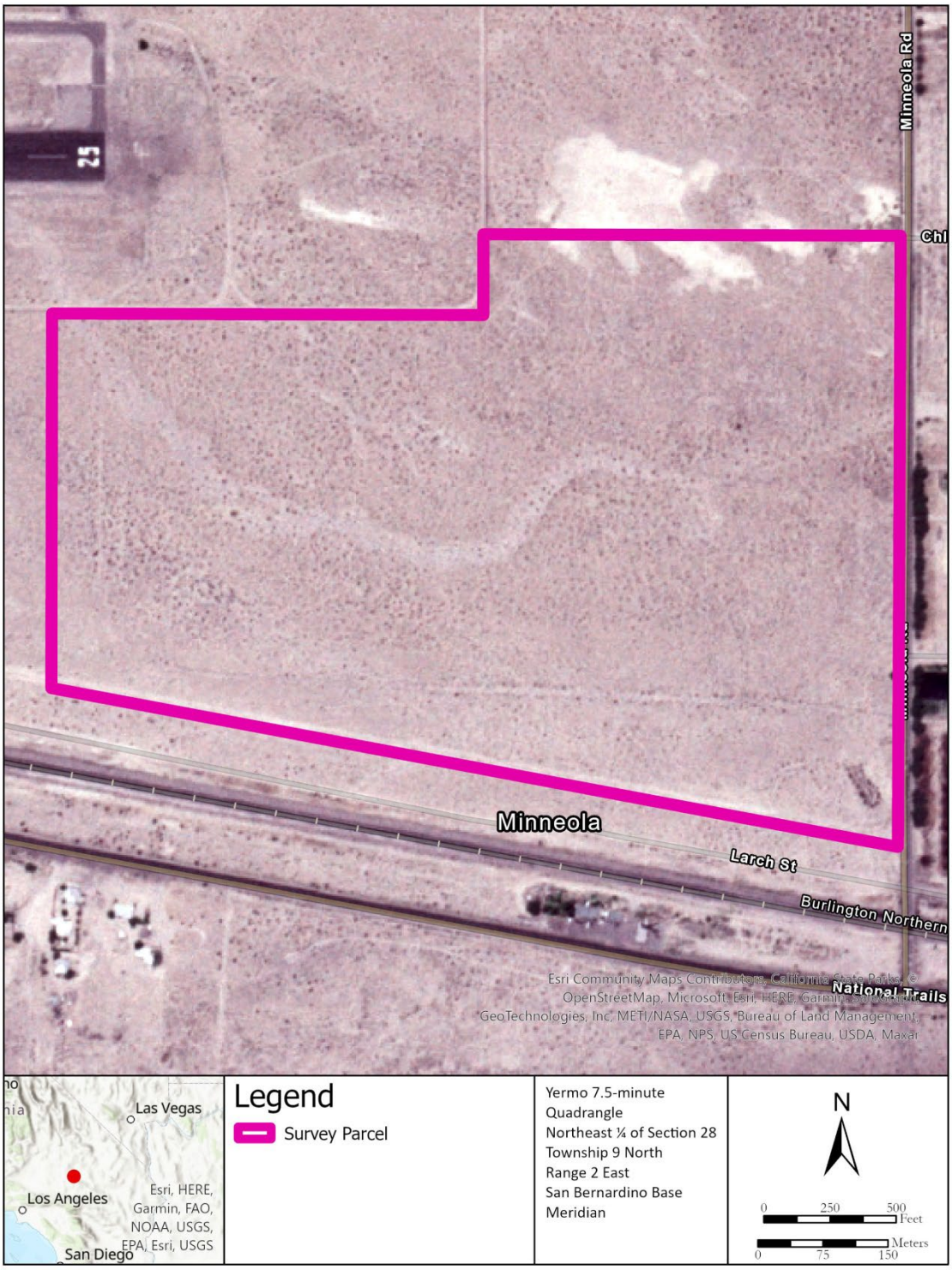

Figure 7. Project Location Aerial Map of 1983.

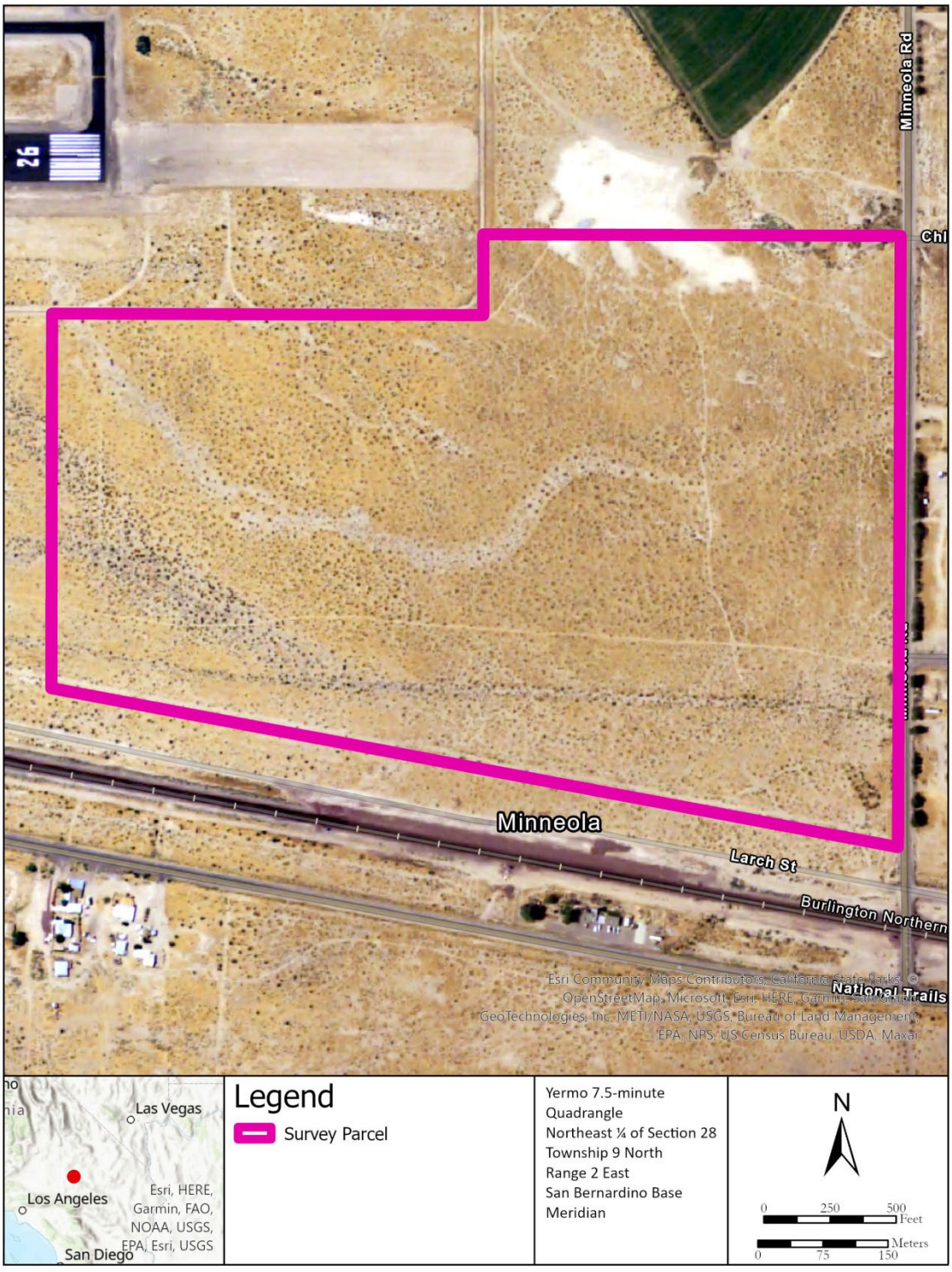

Figure 8. Project Location Aerial Map of 2005.

Figure 9. Project Location Aerial Map of 2014.

Figure 10. Project Location Aerial Map of 2020.

FIELD METHODS AND RESULTS

On May 22, 2023, BioCultural LLC Archaeologist, Gregorio Pacheco B.A., completed an intensive pedestrian survey of the 77.46-acres (APN 052-105-108) Project Area. The survey was completed using a 15-meter spaced transects, oriented north to south. Close inspection was given to all exposed soils and cut banks for the presence of archaeological materials. The Project area was photographed using a high-resolution digital camera (see Appendix A, Field Figures) and field observations were captured in written notes. Locational data was collected with Environmental Systems Research Institute Arc Collector application on Android. The Project area was relatively flat with a 90% ground visibility and spaced vegetation. The Project Area was surveyed entirely and inspected for Pre-Contact and historical cultural resource features. The Project was accessible by foot from all directions and by vehicle from the north, south and east project boundaries. The soils observed consisted of early Holocene and latest Pleistocene older young wash deposits characterized by moderately- to well-developed desert pavement with small to medium-sized rounded and sharp cobbles and gravels. Vegetation consisted of creosote bush scrub, salt bush and pencil cholla cactus. Disturbances were observed in proximity within Minneola Road on the eastern boundary of the project. The disturbances consisted of vehicle tire tracks and modern refuse deposits.

Observed Resources and Evaluations

BioCultural LLC relocated previously recorded sites P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-1678H) and P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H). Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-1678H) was relocated and updated as the site was found to extend to a larger historical refuse deposit. This site was previously described as a small can scatter. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) was relocated and found to have new remnant materials belonging to the historical Barstow-Daggett Airport perimeter fence. Both cultural resource sites and Project Area conditions are summarized below. Refer to Appendix A for Field Figures which includes field photos and resource location map and Appendix D for the updated sites on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms.

Cultural Resource Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H)

Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was previously recorded in 2013 by Far Western during a Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) pipeline project. This cultural resource site was previously recorded as a Post-1945 single event discrete can scatter with one brown glass bottle neck and finish. The recorded artifacts consisted of 38-12 oz. church-key opened beverage cans (1935- mid-1960s), six vent-hole milk cans (Simonis Type 11/12/19/21, 191 7-1985), four sanitary cans measuring 4 inches by 4 11/16 inches (can opener), one external friction sanitary can, and one brown glass neck and screw-top finish for a one gallon jug. The 12 oz. beverage cans were opened with a 3/4 inch church key (post-1961). The site condition was recorded as fair with impacts by erosion (Higgins, Kellawan, Duke and Lucas 2013).

On May 22, BioCultural LLC Archaeologist, Gregorio Pacheco B.A., conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of a 77.46- acre Project Area, in which site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was relocated. During the intensive survey activities it was found that several continuing refuse deposit concentrations were located within site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H), which extended the previously recorded site boundary to the north, east and west from the previously location. The previously recorded description was also re-interpreted as the newly extended site included additional materials that were not included in the initial recording of the site.

The newly extended and updated site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) consisted of five large continuing material concentrations from 1914 to Post-1945 lumped together as no clear gaps between materials were observed. The large historical refuse scatter measured 0.50 miles (east/west) by 0.25 miles (south/north). The historical refuse deposit is located within proximity of the historic Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road Tracks on the south, the historic Barstow-Daggett airport on the north and the historic Minneola Road on the east of the Project. The Project Area is relatively flat with an 80 to 90 % visibility of the ground. The Project Area also includes several small modern refuse deposits with construction and household debris, as well as vehicle and motorcycle tire track disturbances. Chloride Road on the north shows recent possible disturbance excavations for water lines and/or sewer lines.

The extended and updated site is composed of +/-350 historic cans, +/-450 historic glass bottle fragments and+/-250 whiteware ceramic fragments, as well as other historic materials. The resources identified include 5 Gallon Steel Buckets, Steel Key Wind Sardine Rectangular Cans, Soldered Side Seam Sanitary Cans, Steel Key Wind Round Coffee Cans with Soldered Side Seam, Beverage Knife-Opened Steel Sanitary Cans with Soldered Side Seam, Can-Opener Steel Cans with Soldered Side Seam, Beverage Aluminum - Steel Hybrid Pop Top with Pull Lift Ring and Soldered Side Seam Sanitary Cans, Beverage Church Key Steel Sanitary Cans with Soldered Side Seam, Church Key Steel Condense Milk Hole-in-Cap Cans with Soldered Side Seam, Screw Top Steel Motor Oil Cans, Ice Pick Single Serve Steel Condense Milk Hole-in-Cap Cans with Soldered Side Seam, 8 feet Rail Road Ties, historical glass fragments varied in color including, amethyst, aqua, cobalt, green and brown. Some of the identified bottles included Owens-Illinois Glass Co. (1929-1960 & 1954 – present), Brockway Glass Co. (1933 – 1980), Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. (1910 – 1930), Latchford-Marble Glass Co. (1939 – 1957) and Maywood Glass Co (1930 – 1959) (Society for Historical Archaeology 2023). The identified ceramic plate fragment is an October 1929 Homer Laughlin by Newell potteries in Newell, West Virginia (Gonzalez 2023). The site is likely composed of many single episode dumps as is located next within proximity of the historic Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road Tracks, the historic Barstow-Daggett airport and the historic Minneola Road and date back to the 1914 to Post - 945 eras.

The site is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history and cultural heritage of the United States (Criterion 1); the site is not directly associated with the lives of persons significant to the nation's past (Criterion 2); this site does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Criterion 3); nor is there the potential for subsurface or additional data that could yield information important to the prehistory or history of the nation (Criterion 4). The site consists of a refuse deposit that possible represents single events, with no evidence of subsurface potential, dating back to the 1914 to Post - 1945 eras. As a result, this site is recommended not eligible under any criteria for listing on the CRHR.

Cultural Resource Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H)

Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) or Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District as is also identified, has been previously recorded on various components of the district in 1977, 1998, 2001, and 2004. In 2001 the whole airport was recorded and in 2004 a study evaluated five structures within the district as contributing elements to the significance of the district. The record states that the district appears to be eligible for the NRHP and CRHR. In 2018, HDR Inc. surveyed a 3,000 foot (E/W) by 200 foot (N/S) section along the northern perimeter of the Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District for the Daggett Solar Project. During the survey three small concentrations of degraded milled lumber with nails and barbed wire was observed along the survey corridor just to the south of the perimeter access road. The barbed wire was badly rusted, still in spools, and appeared as though it has not been used. The barbed

wire was spaced apart in 430 foot increments along the segment and some areas only contained wire while others contained wood, wire, and small amounts of historic refuse (Connolly, Volta, Leard, Leonard, and Glenny 2018).

On May 22, BioCultural LLC Archaeologist, Gregorio Pacheco B.A., conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of a 77.46- acre Project Area, in which site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was relocated. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was found to intersect the northern portion of the Project Area, specifically overlapping within the existing access road. Two new Concentrations (Concentration 1 and Concentration 2) with remnant materials belonging to the historical Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District southern fence perimeter were recorded. The surveyed southern fence boundary corresponds to the WWII era when the County of San Bernardino filed condemnation lawsuits to increase the size of the airport (Connolly, Volta, Leard, Leonard, and Glenny 2018).

The materials observed on newly recorded Concentrations one and two were fragments of lumber with nails and reinforced barbed wire with roll wire fencing. Concentration one was found to have an approximately +/-25 feet long by 4 feet wide wire fence segment and two unknown smaller segments (partially busried) in a 12 feet long (east/west) by 8 feet (north/south) wide area. Concentration two was found to have an approximately +/-40 by 4 feet wide wire fence segment in a 15 feet (east/west) long by 10 feet (north/south) wide area. Concentration two was also observed to have heavy duty security metal chain fragments. The wire, nails, wood and chain fragments were found to be in poor conditions as they were possibly used in the 1940's by the War Department (Bischoff 1998). Both Concentrations appear to be disturbed, in poor conditions and not in situ. Concentration one was found to be located approximately 100 feet south of the southeast corner of the previously recorded Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District site boundary. Concentration two was found to be located approximately 800 feet southeast of the previously recorded Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District site boundary.

Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) is already recommended eligible as a whole under Status Code 3D - eligible for National Register as a contributor to a National Register eligible district through survey evaluation. These two new Concentrations have an almost complete loss of historic integrity, and are non-contributing components to the significance of the historic district. The integrity of the locations has been diminished because there are only fragments of the resources in the general locations of where the resources originally stood. Integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling are non-existent because the resources are deteriorated and in poor conditions to where it is almost unrecognizable that they are remnants of a fence. Integrity of setting is intact as the airfield has changed very little but has been diminished by the construction of a modern chain link fence adjacent north. Integrity of association is intact because the resource is related to the Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The cultural resource assessment of the 77.46-acre (APN 052-105-108) Project Area included research and review of relevant, historic maps, records search results from the SCCIC, SLF results from the NAHC, and an intense pedestrian survey of the Project Area. The result of this assessment concluded with positive results for two previously recorded historical sites to be located within the Project Area. The historical sites were relocated and updated. BioCultural LLC archaeologists recorded, evaluated, and provided recommendations for one large historic archaeological refuse scatter P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) and for two new Concentrations part of site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) were recorded. No resources were collected. The historic archaeological refuse scatter site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria to determine whether it constitutes eligible historical resources under CRHR as required under CEQA. Based on the surficial review of archaeological materials present, this site is recommended not eligible for CRHR under any criteria. Historic Concentrations 1 and 2 are part of site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) which is already recommended eligible as a whole under Status Code 3D. BioCultural LLC concluded the historical refuse scatter site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) is recommended not eligible under any criteria for listing on the CRHR. As well, BioCultural LLC concluded the Concentrations part of site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) are non-contributing components to the significance of the historic district and have lost any direct historic integrity. As well is concluded Concentrations 1 and 2 do have integrity of association and setting as they are directly related to the Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District. Should additional information be identified during subsurface excavation for the Project, such findings would require additional review and consideration for CRHR eligibility. Mitigation Measurement recommendations have been provided below to reduce any potential disruption to cultural resources.

Recommendations

The cultural resources assessment resulted in the identification of two previously recorded historic archaeological sites P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) and P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) within the Project Area during the CHRIS in-person records search at the SCCIC. Both sites P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) and P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) were relocated during the pedestrian survey activities. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was found to extend to a large historical refuse scatter composed of five large continuing material concentrations from 1914 to Post-1945 lumped together as no clear gaps between materials were observed. The extended and updated site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) was evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria to determine whether or not the site constitutes as an historical site under CEQA. The archeological site lacks potential for significant subsurface deposits and was determined to retain no further research potential beyond recording its location and attributes, which has been completed. However, the potential to encounter buried cultural materials during the grading of the Project Area is feasible. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) was found to have new 1940's WWII perimeter fencing materials which were recorded as Concentration 1 and Concentration 2. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) has been previously recommended eligible as a whole under Status Code 3D, but the newly recorded Concentration materials have non-contributing components to the significance of the historic district and have lost any direct historic integrity. Both Concentrations have integrity of association and setting as they are directly related to the Barstow-Daggett Airport Historic District. BioCultural LLC recommends that the initial construction-related ground disturbances activities associated with the development of the Project to be monitored by an archaeologist, if the resources cannot be avoided during construction.

BioCultural LLC recommends the following mitigation measures to be adopted and implemented by the Project proponent and the lead agency to reduce any potential disruption to cultural resources:

- Prior to construction of the proposed Project, a qualified archaeological monitor with relevant San Bernardino County experience and who will work directly under the direction of a Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) professional archaeologist, should be retained by the Project proponent. If the resources cannot be avoided and if the lead agency requires, an Archaeological Management Plan will be prepared to establish procedures for monitoring.

- The Project archaeologist, may, at their discretion, terminate monitoring if (and only if) no subsurface cultural resources have been detected. If buried cultural resource artifacts are uncovered during ground disturbance activities the archaeological monitor will have the authority to re-direct grading activities to other location within the Project to examine the resources and possibly conduct subsurface testing (Phase II), as indicated in the Archaeological Management Plan. A research design associated with such work must be written before any subsurface fieldwork begins. The Plan shall include a description of how and where artifacts will be curated. If the site is determined to be significant through the testing process, continued impacts to the site would be considered significant and possibly unavoidable impacts. Impacts to the significance resource must take place either through avoidance or a Phase 3 excavation. Should any prehistoric or tribal cultural resources be identified within the Project Area, Native American consulting parties shall be contacted regarding the disposition and treatment of the resource(s).

- In the event of the unanticipated discovery of human remains, work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall stop and no further disturbance shall occur until the San Bernardino County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to CEQA, Section 15064.5(e), State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner shall be notified of the find immediately. If the Coroner determines that the human remains are of Native American in origin, then the Corner shall notify the NAHC, who is responsible for identifying and notifying the Native American most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and make recommendations regarding the treatment and disposition of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. If an agreement regarding disposition of human remains between the MLD and the Landowner or a MLD cannot be identified the landowner shall comply with the disposition and documentation required as defined by PCR 5097.98 Section (e).

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE: 6/26/2023 SIGNED: 

PRINTED NAME: David Sosa, M.A., R.P.A.

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Appendix A.
Field Figures & Results Map (Confidential)

Figure 11. Project Area Overview eastern boundary. East view.

Figure 12. Project Area Overview southeast corner boundary. South view.

Figure 13. Project Area Overview south boundary. South view.

Figure 14. Project Area Overview southwest boundary. South view.

Figure 15. Project Area Overview west boundary. West view.

Figure 16. Project Area Overview of roads/path disturbances. East view.

Figure 17. Project Area Overview of roads/path disturbances. West view.

Figure 18. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) Overview. South view.

Figure 19. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) Overview. North view.

Figure 20. Site P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) Concentration 1 Overview. South view.

Figure 21. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) Overview. East view.

Figure 22. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) Overview. Northwest view.

Figure 23. Site P-36-026512 (CA-SBR-16781H) Overview. East view.

Figure 24. P-36-010627 (CA-SBR-10627H) Concentration 2 Overview. East view.

Figure 25. Project Results Map.

Appendix B.
Records Search Results

SCCIC - In House Search 5.4.2023

Externo Recibidos

Kott, Isabela <ikott@fullerton.edu>
para mí, South

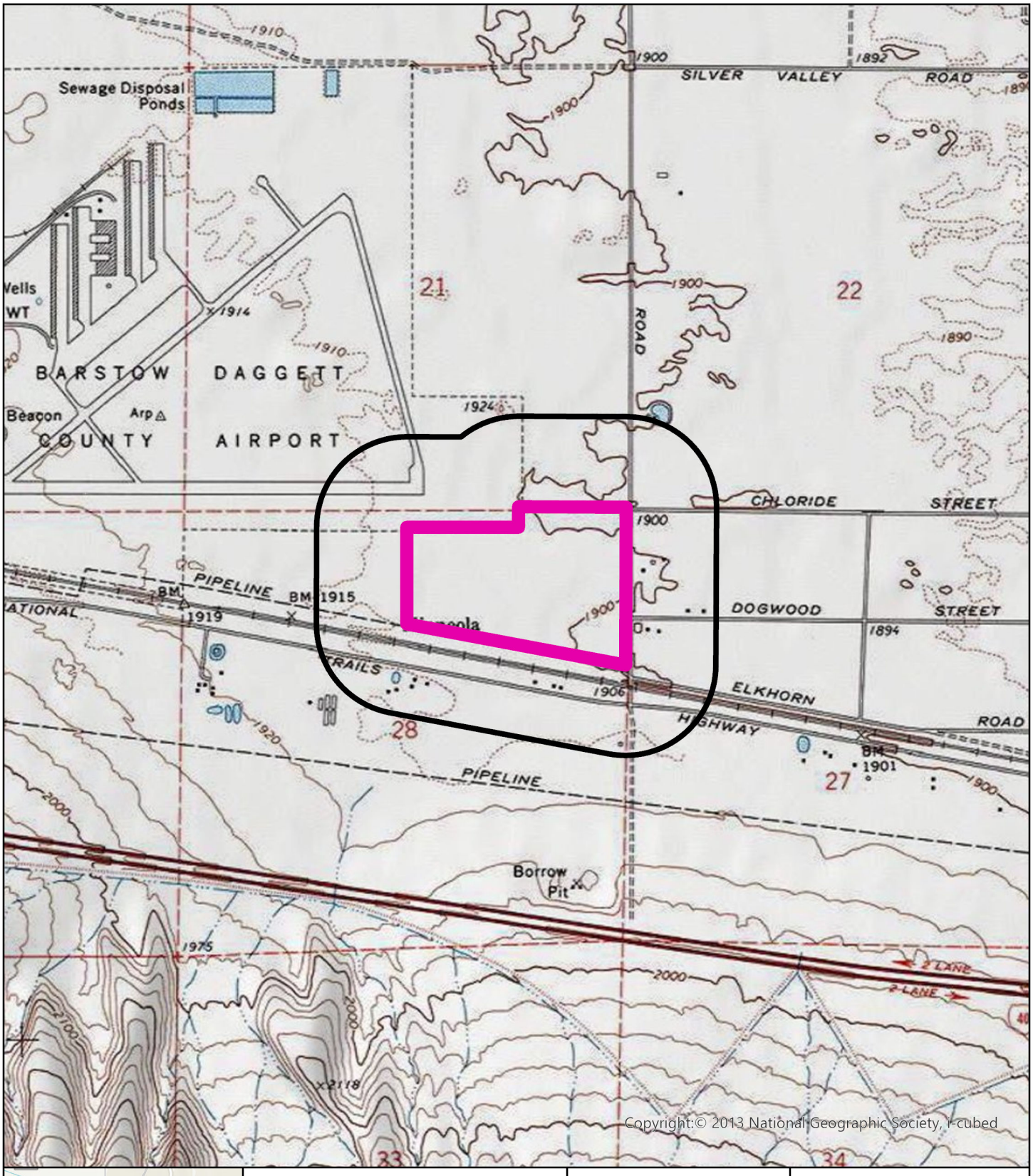
4 may 2023, 14:22

Hi Gregorio,

I uploaded your in house record search results to DropBox. The files can be unzipped with the password 7CnmS0!4V&Z$. Please download your results and save them to your desktop. If you have any questions or have trouble accessing your file please let me know.

Best,

Isabela Kott
Assistant Coordinator, GIS Program Specialist
South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC)
CSUF, Dept. of Anthropology, MH 426
800 N State College Blvd
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
Phone 657-278-5395



Legend

- 0.25-mile Buffer
- Survey Parcel

Yermo 7.5-minute Quadrangle
Northeast ¼ of Section 28
Township 9 North
Range 2 East
San Bernardino Base Meridian

N

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

0 375 750 Meters

Appendix C.
Sacred Lands File Search Results

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

June 5, 2023

Gregorio Pacheco
BioCultural LLC

Via Email to: gregorio.pacheco@biocultural.net

Re: #1192023 Cultural Resources Assessment in Support of the Minneola Road Solar Project, San Bernardino County

Dear Mr. Pacheco:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Cameron.vela@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cameron Vela

Cameron Vela
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Bernardino County
6/5/2023

Kern Valley Indian Community
Brandy Kendricks,
30741 Foxridge Court — Kawaiisu
Tehachapi, CA, 93561 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 821 - 1733 — Koso
krazykendricks@hotmail.com

Kern Valley Indian Community
Julie Turner, Secretary
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (661) 340 - 0032 — Koso

Kern Valley Indian Community
Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1010 — Kawaiisu
Lake Isabella, CA, 93240 — Tubatulabal
Phone: (760) 378 - 2915 — Koso
bbutterbredt@gmail.com

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 — Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla
Banning, CA, 92220 — Serrano
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Jordan Joaquin, President,
Quechan Tribal Council
P.O.Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 919 - 3600
executivesecretary@quechantribe.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman - Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 210 - 8739
culturalcommittee@quechantribe.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 261 - 0254
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Donna Yocum, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838 — Kitanemuk
Newhall, CA, 91322 — Vanyume
Phone: (503) 539 - 0933 — Tataviam
Fax: (503) 574-3308
dyocum@sfbmi.org

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager
26569 Community Center Drive — Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 633 - 0054
alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 — Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed #1192023 Cultural Resources Assessment in Support of the Minneola Road Solar Project, San Bernardino County.

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (909) 528 - 9032
serranonation1@gmail.com

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Darrell Mike, Chairperson
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 863 - 2444
Fax: (760) 863-2449
29chairman@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 775 - 3259
amadrigal@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov

Appendix D.
Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Forms (Confidential)